

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 AID-20 PC-04

A-01 OMB-01 OPR-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 SY-10 USSS-00 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5824

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 4549

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, CASC, PINS

SUBJ: PRESS REPORTS

REF: STATE 189464

1. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO HARD INFORMATION TO CONFIRM OR DENY ALLEGATIONS REPORTED REFTEL, WE DOUBT SUMMARY MASS EXECUTIONS AT NATIONAL STADIUM HAVE TAKEN PLACE. VOLLEYS FIRED FOR PURPOSE WOULD BE HEARD FAR AWAY IN STILLNESS OF SANTIAGO NIGHT CURFEW. STADIUM IN POPULATED AREA AND ON EDGE OF AREAS WHERE MANY FOREIGNERS RESIDE. ENTIRE FOREIGN PRESS CORPS AND TWO ICRC REPRESENTATIVES VISITED NATIONAL STADIUM SEPT 20. WHILE NOT ALLOWED INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS, THEY DID HAVE VOICE CONTACT WITH DETAINEES WHOSE ONLY COMPLAINT WAS SLOWNESS OF INTERROGATION PROCESS AND QUALITY OF FOOD. JERRY O'LEARY OF WASHINGTON STAR NEWS, AN EXPERIENCED MARINE RESERVE OFFICER, TELLS US IT WOULD BE PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR EXECUTIONS TO TAKE PLACE THERE WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE OUTSIDE OF STADIUM. HE WAS GIVEN SPECIAL ACCESS AND IN TWO-AND-HALF HOURS THERE INTERVIEWED MANY AND SAW COMPLETE LIST OF DETAINEES, AND NO ONE MADE CLAIM THAT PRISONERS BEING SHOT. EXECUTIONS ARE KIND OF NEWS WE ARE CONFIDENT CHILEANS WOULD
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EAGERLY CARRY TO US AS WELL AS OTHER MISSIONS AND TO FOREIGN

CORRESPONDENTS.

2. DEPT HAS IN HAND FILE OF MESSAGES REPORTING CONSIDERABLE EFFORT MADE BY EMBASSY IN BEHALF OF GARRETT-SCHESCH COUPLE AND OTHER US DETAINEES. COUPLE MADE NO COMPLAINTS ABOUT EMBASSY HANDLING OF THEIR CASE TO CONSUL WHO RECEIVED THEM INTO CUSTODY. RATHER, EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR EMBASSY EFFORTS.

3. RE RESIDENT EXILEES, SEE SANTIAGO 4377 AND PREVIOUS.

4. COMMENT: REPORTS SUGGEST INITIATION OF CONCERTED DEFAMATION CAMPAIGN TO SMEAR NEW GOC. SUCH STATEMENT WILL NOT FACILITATE OUR EFFORTS IN BEHALF OF OTHER AMCIT DETAINEES.

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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